THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) Opencast mining operations by Coal India Limited in North Eastern Coalfields have involved about 2000 trees (123.5 acres) within the area of mining leases. Coal mining operations by Coal India Limited have not resulted in destruction of any cultivable land near Margherita.

During the last two years CIL have planted about 1,38,250 saplings of which surviving plants are about 1,08,550 and CIL have incurred an expenditure of Rs. 8.04 lakhs. Plantation has been carried out in Baragolai, Namdang, Tikak, Ledo, Tirap, Tipong, Margherita and Jeypore. Plantation work has been taken up in mind areas, overburden dumps, residential township and green belts.

Setting up of Super Thermal Power Station by NTPC in Chandrapur, Maharashtra

1512. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision for the setting up of a super thermal power station by N.T.P.C. at Chandrapur in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The National Thermal Power Corporation have formulated a Feasibility Report for the first stage of a super thermal power station (1000 MW) at Chandrapur in Maharashtra. As per the Feasibility Report, the proposed project is estimated to cost Rs. 1424.87 crores. An investment decision could be taken only after all the inputs such as coal, environmental clearance and financial resources etc., have been tied up.

Losses incurred by State Electricity Boards

1513. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual losses incurred by the various State Electricity Boards have short up to Rs. 2,300 crores against Rs. 1550 crores during the first two years of the current Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons therefor; and

(c) what percentage of power is lost every year by way of theft and how far the losses can be minimised by preventing theft and better management along with the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) Against an average annual loss of about Rs. 1550 crores during the first two years of the current Five Year Plan, the losses in 1987-88 are provisionally estimated to be Rs. 2050 crores. This does not take into account the subvention due to the Boards on account of supply of power to the agricultural/rural sector.

(b) The main reasons for the increase in losses are:

1. Increase in the supply of power to the agricultural sector.
2. Increase in loss to the Board for each unit of power sold to the agricultural/rural sector.

(c) In a large system, it is difficult to segregate losses on account of theft of power, and on account of other factors

The Indian Electricity Act, 1910 has been amended to make theft of power a cognizable offence. The State Governments/Electricity Supply Organisations have been advised to intensify surprise inspection of various consumer installations, and to undertake suitable administrative and legislative measures for the prevention of theft of power. They have been advised to